

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 013300
ORIGIN SCT-02

RELEASED IN FULL

INFO LOG-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 EUR-00 EB-00 H-01 MMO-01
NEA-04 EAP-00 PA-02 DS-01 OIG-04 DSE-00 /016 R

DRAFTED BY: S/CT:DHAMILTON

APPROVED BY: S/CT:LPBREMER

EAP:WCLARK

EAP/P:AALMASOV

EAP/K:JGOSNELL

PA:CREDMAN

-----010731 152002Z /44

O 151945Z JAN 88 ZEX

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANAMA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BEIJING IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MANILA IMMEDIATE

ALL EUROPEAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

UNCLAS STATE 013300

PLEASE PASS ALONG TO ALL CODEL STAFFS;

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PTER, PREL, KN, KS, UR, CH, US

SUBJECT: APPROVED PRESS GUIDANCE ON KAL 858

FOR MANILA, PLEASE PASS TO

CONGRESSMAN SOLARZ, WHO HAS EXPRESSED SPECIAL INTEREST

1. FOLLOWING IS THE CLEARED PRESS GUIDANCE THAT WAS
PROVIDED DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN FOR THE JANUARY 15 PRESS
BRIEFING.

Q: WHAT IS THE U.S. RESPONSE TO THE ROKG'S ANNOUNCEMENT
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 013300

THAT KAL FLIGHT 858 WAS BOMBED AND THAT THE NORTH KOREAN
GOVERNMENT WAS RESPONSIBLE?

A: THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA HAS PRODUCED EVIDENCE THAT KAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: SAMUEL V SMITH
DATE/CASE ID: 10 AUG 2009 200807065

UNCLASSIFIED
UNCLASSIFIED

858 WAS DESTROYED BY AN ACT OF TERRORISM BY NORTH KOREA. OVER THE PAST SIX WEEKS, INDEPENDENTLY GATHERED INFORMATION INDICATES LIKELY NORTH KOREAN INVOLVEMENT. THE SOUTH KOREAN REVELATIONS MAKE THE CASE EVEN STRONGER. WE CONDEMN THIS ACT OF TERRORISM.

UNCLASSIFIED

Q: DOES THE U.S. BELIEVE NORTH KOREA WAS RESPONSIBLE?

A: FIRST LET ME SAY THAT ATTACKS ON CIVILIAN AIRLINERS ARE SINGULARLY DESPICABLE. TO PLACE A BOMB ABOARD A PLANE FILLED WITH INNOCENT PEOPLE IS MASS MURDER AND CONSTITUTES A THREAT AND AN AFFRONT TO ALL CIVILIZED PEOPLE.

-- THERE ARE SOUND REASONS TO BELIEVE THAT KAL FLIGHT 858 WAS DESTROYED BY A TERRORIST BOMBING. THE ABSENCE OF ANY KIND OF DISTRESS CALL AND THE PAUCITY OF WRECKAGE ARE INDICATIVE OF SUDDEN EXPLOSION AT HIGH ALTITUDE. THE MOST LIKELY CAUSE WOULD BE A BOMB ABOARD THE PLANE.

-- OTHER INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US INDICATES LIKELY NORTH KOREAN INVOLVEMENT:

1. THAT KIM HYUNG-HEE AND HER COMPANION USED FALSE PASSPORTS TO TRAVEL ON THE AIRCRAFT SHORTLY BEFORE ITS DESTRUCTION AND THAT ON APPREHENSION HER COMPANION COMMITTED SUICIDE AND SHE ATTEMPTED TO DO SO LEAD US TO CONCLUDE THAT IN ALL PROBABILITY THEY WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BOMBING.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 013300

2. THE PASSPORTS THAT WERE USED WERE FORGED JAPANESE PASSPORTS. THE JAPANESE HAVE PUBLICLY INDICATED THAT THE PASSPORT OF KIM'S COMPANION WAS RECEIVED FROM AN INDIVIDUAL WANTED IN JAPAN AS A NORTH KOREAN AGENT.

3. WE CAN CONFIRM THE TRAVEL OF KIM AND HER COMPANION, INCLUDING BOARDING KAL 858 IN BAGHDAD AND GETTING OFF IN ABU DHABI.

4. THE CYANIDE PILLS THAT KIM AND HER COMPANION TOOK ARE INDICATIVE OF NORTH KOREAN TACTICS, AS NORTH KOREANS HAVE USED SUCH PILLS SEVERAL TIMES IN THE PAST DECADE.

5. WE HAVE INDEPENDENT EVIDENCE THAT KIM AND HER

UNCLASSIFIED
UNCLASSIFIED

CONFIRMATION AND IN THEIR POSSESSION THE NAMES OF CONTACT
POINTS IN NORTH KOREAN MISSIONS ALONG THEIR TRAVEL ROUTE.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

6. IN HER CONFESSION KIM SPOKE IN HER MOTHER TONGUE WITH
A NORTH KOREAN ACCENT.

-- GIVEN THAT THE NORTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT HAS -- AS IN
THE CASE OF THE BOMBING IN BURMA ON OCTOBER 9, 1983 --
COMMITTED ACTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST THE ROKG AND ITS
CITIZENS, THE NORTH KOREANS ARE LOGICAL SUSPECTS.

Q: GIVEN THAT THE ROKG SEEMS TO HAVE PRACTICED
QUESTIONABLE INTERROGATION TECHNIQUES IN THE PAST, DO YOU
FIND KIM'S CONFESSION BELIEVABLE?

A: WE HAVE NOT HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY THE
CONFESSION, BUT AS I SAID EARLIER, WE HAD ALREADY
DEVELOPED INDEPENDENT EVIDENCE OF LIKELY NORTH KOREAN
INVOLVEMENT.

Q: THE NORTH KOREANS HAVE CLAIMED THIS IS A SOUTH KOREAN
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 013300

PLOT TO DISCREDIT THEM. ANY RESPONSE?

A: WE FIND THE VERY NOTION THAT THE SOUTH KOREANS WOULD
DO THIS ABSURD.

Q: WHAT MOTIVE WOULD THE NORTH KOREANS HAVE?

A: WE ARE NOT GOING TO SPECULATE.

Q: WHAT HELP HAS THE U.S. GIVEN THE ROKG IN ITS
INVESTIGATION?

A: WE WERE ASKED FOR AND PROVIDED ASSISTANCE IN LOCATING
WRECKAGE.

Q: HAS ANYONE FROM THE U.S. TALKED TO KIM? WILL ANYONE
DO SO?

A: NOT AT THIS TIME. WE ARE INTERESTED IN DOING SO, AND
THE ROKG HAS INDICATED THAT WE WOULD BE GIVEN THE
OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO.

Q: WHAT STEPS DOES THE UNITED STATES PLAN TO TAKE IN

UNCLASSIFIED
UNCLASSIFIED

C17924177
THIS ACTION:

UNCLASSIFIED
UNCLASSIFIED

A HE ARE IN CLOSE CONSULTATION WITH THE ROKG AND OTHER
NATIONS.

Q: IN SEOUL TODAY THE ROKG HINTED THAT MILITARY
RETALIATION IS AN OPTION. IS IT?

A: I HAVE NOTHING FOR YOU ON THAT. SHULTZ

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 013300

UNCLASSIFIED
UNCLASSIFIED